It has been previously considered that the only way to protect cables from fire and mechanical damage is to pull them into ducts encased by concrete forming the bench walls. This cumbersome solution restricts the lengths of HV cables which can be pulled into ducts, does not give easy access for maintenance, and requires frequent joint pits which are current sources of failure.

2.4 FINDING: WHAT IS RECOMMENDED

2.4.1 Implement NRT Refurbishment ''In-Service'':

LBA believes that regular weeknight and weekend periods or one-tube outages are feasible. This would necessitate an in-service sequence of work in only one of the NRT tubes at any point in time and refurbishment could be undertaken simultaneously in a number of locations in the occupied NRT tube. Planning should utilise weeknights for non-invasive work and weekends for more linear, invasive construction work.

Repair the tunnel lining and seal the leaks

Replace the mechanical and electrical services in the tunnel with new and improved systems

Replace the High Voltage (HV) cables which pass through the tubes

Demolish the bench walls (which are too high and failing) and replace them with new walkways and cable containments

Replace the trackbed, track, and overhead catenary

Replace the signalling system

2.4.2 Reduce the Service Impacts at the Earliest Possible Stage:

The prioritisation of track, trackbed, and overhead line replacement is important in planning the NRT Refurbishment, therefore, early activities should include:

Lower trackbed, Where Possible: To achieve a greater clearance between the overhead catenary cable and the train pantograph (arm)

Direct Fixation Trackbed: Replace the existing traditional ballasted (crushed stone) trackbed with a fixed concrete system (direct fixation track) to avoid blocked drains and salt-contaminated ballast (that result in signal problems)

Modify or Replace 12.5kV Overhead Line: To achieve the full dynamic and electrical clearances that are required in the crown of the tubes for compliance with standards

2.4.3 Utilise In-Line Methodologies and Sequences for Bench Wall Demolition & Replacement:

LBA have detailed a number of possible methodologies for the replacement of the NRT bench wall based on benchmark performance information from successful international projects to provide an emergency egress walkway, a maintenance platform for railway workers, and locations for the tunnel's electrical/communication cables and third-party services, including a precast solution, GRP encasement solution, duct bank solution with fire protection, fireproof duct solution, and cable in racks only solution. All options have their advantages and disadvantages, but the fireproof duct solution incorporated in a steel cantilevered walkway conceptually seems to offer the best potential ahead of a formal fire risk assessment.

2.4.4 Utilise modern cable solutions and comply with NFPA 130 Fire Life Safety requirements:

LBA makes recommendations for modern cable solutions and an approach to cable management and containment based on laying cables rather than pulling them. Utilizing the longest possible lengths of cable reduces joints and joint pits and ultimately potential cable failures. High Voltage (HV) cables (power cables) and Low Voltage (LV) cables (lighting, telephony, fire detection, alarm, and communications) may require different types of solutions, depending on the level of Fire Protection required under the NFPA 130 standard.

LV cable containment systems could include continuous troughs and cable racking with fire protection to emergency circuits provided by the direct cable sheathing or a sheathing which contains the cable.

HV cables with intrinsic resistance to fire are not available but fire protection may be required to protect business continuity as the result of a fire risk assessment identifying an unacceptable level or risk. Cables could be contained in a number of ways including securing to low level cable racks and fireproof ducting. Suitable fireproof ducting has been identified if required and included in the conceptual bench wall replacement options. Space constraints are an important consideration because the fire resistance is dependent on the duct material thickness and air gaps are required around the cables for cooling. A detailed design would be required to determine the final solution for the duct.

Protection to all cables and services should be provided by derailment protection provided by guard rails, which sit inside the running rails.

Refurbishment should ensure that the emergency egress walkway clearances are safe and compliant with NFPA 130 requirements.

2.4.5 Remove the Third Rail:

LBA believes that the Third Rail should be removed because it is not used routinely, there are alternatives to its use in an emergency, the cost of installing and maintaining is unnecessary, it is an unnecessary complication in safety and emergency procedures, and, if required, the Third Rail can be re-installed at the end of construction or another future date.

2.4.6 Treat the In-Service Refurbishment Operation as a System:

Optimise the overall performance rather than maximise component elements of the cycle and propose using mechanical measures where practicable to enhance productivity and promote innovation, refinement, and improvement.

2.4.7 Utilise Bespoke and Highly Productive Works Trains & Railhead:

Battery or hybrid locomotives could be used for train rescue and for handling works trains for NRT refurbishment. A railhead should be constructed to support the activities within the NRT tubes to service and load work trains for the refurbishment.

2.4.8 Incorporate Risk Mitigation Throughout the Planning of the Refurbishment:

Mitigations have been implemented successfully to help other refurbishment projects of comparable age, complexity, and essentiality. The risk chapter of this report identifies specific risks and proposes appropriate mitigations. LBA recommends that a risk assessment is conducted by the Integrated Work Team, which includes the Gateway Partners, to compile and address the risks and deficiencies that could occur during the refurbishment program.

HONORING THE CAREER OF KEN SMITH

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and storied career of Branson West City Administrator Ken Smith.

Mr. Smith began his tenure in 1998, and since then, has worked tirelessly for the people of Branson West. As City Administrator, he has overseen numerous projects designed to improve and expand the city. Shortly after he took office, the new Sewer Treatment Plant Facility was completed. This facility was designed to meet the needs of the city well into the future and has remained in operation, ready for the city to continue prospering. He has also overseen the expansion of utility lines so that the city can provide essential services to more properties. In addition to these projects, in recent years, sidewalks and streetlights have been added along Business Highway 13, and a new water tower has been approved.

In October 2010, Branson West Municipal Airport was opened. The new airport includes a 5000-foot runway, and 10,000 square foot maintenance hangar connected to the terminal. There are 39 private T-hangars, all of which are occupied, and construction is about to begin on 4 larger square hangars. All of this allows for a general aviation facility, which serves the city and surrounding communities. In 2016, the city limits were expanded south on Highway 13 to Highway DD.

All these projects have allowed for community growth. New businesses have been drawn to the community, and there are more projects underway to encourage further business expansion. The city has also recently acquired land for future parks and recreation. Mr. Smith has overseen all these projects, and many more, during his 23-year tenure as City Administrator.

Madam Speaker, since taking office in 1998, Ken Smith has worked every day for the people of Branson West. He has led several projects and expansions of the city, all designed to improve the community he has so enthusiastically served. I wish him, and his family a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL JONES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Paul D. Jones II who will be retiring this spring after a highly distinguished career of service in the California water industry. For over twenty-five years, Mr. Jones has been the top executive officer for major water agencies in the Southern California region. Over the last decade, Mr. Jones has served as the General Manager for Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), which serves nearly one million customers in western Riverside County.

During his tenure at EMWD, Mr. Jones has been widely recognized for his leadership in elevating Eastern to one of the most respected and forward-thinking water, wastewater and recycled water agencies in the nation. Mr. Jones played an instrumental role in notable accomplishments for EMWD, such as the agency's achievement of 100 percent beneficial reuse of its recycled water supplies, the initiation of its potable reuse program, and the spearheading of key infrastructure investments which will provide safe and reliable services for future generations. Under Paul's direction,

EMWD was able to substantially expand the agency's desalination program creating a new local water source for its residents. The federal and state funding secured for this initiative resulted in the construction of the South Perris Desalter project, which will produce 6,000 acre-feet per year of potable water.

Mr. Jones was also a leading advocate for transforming the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI recycled water funding program into a competitive grant program—a goal which was realized through the enactment of the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation (WIIN) Act in 2016. While President of the WateReuse Association, Mr. Jones helped to develop the nation's first ever federal Water Reuse Action Plan which formally launched in February 2020. During California's historic drought, Mr. Jones worked with other state water leaders to create a more equitable system that rewarded proactive water use efficiency measures. In addition, Paul has led the way in California for a more viable alternative to assist failing water systems without the need for a statewide tax on all water users.

On the local level, Mr. Jones has played a key role in a local agency partnership to transform the area near Diamond Valley Lake into an environmentally sustainable recreational area. In addition, on behalf of EMWD Mr. Jones has made innumerable contributions at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the Association of California Water Agencies, the Southern California Water Coalition, and the California WateReuse Association. I would like to thank Paul Jones for his service to the community and water industry and wish him much happiness in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS STATE TROOPER JAMES O. RAY ON BEING NAMED AS AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS OF STATE TROOPERS TROOPER OF THE YEAR

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arkansas State Trooper James O. Ray on being named the 2021 American Association of State Troopers Trooper of the Year. A three-year veteran of the Arkansas State Police Highway Patrol Division and Franklin County resident, Officer Ray exemplifies service beyond the call of duty and represents the finest of Arkansas' Fourth District.

Officer Ray was granted this honor following his courageous action in December 2020 in which his wise response to a dangerous chase prevented catastrophic damage and injury to the public. After responding to a call to support a fellow trooper along Interstate 40 near Ozark, Officer Ray followed a suspect vehicle at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour. The suspect later crossed the median, driving toward oncoming traffic. Officer Ray drove ahead of the suspect in the opposite lane, stopped traffic to protect motorists behind him, and then rammed the front corner of the suspect vehicle. Once both vehicles were in the median, Trooper Ray safely arrested the suspect, with no injuries to the suspect or any other motorist.

I take this time today to congratulate Trooper Ray on this most deserving honor and thank him for his exemplary service to the people of the State of Arkansas. May we always look to officers like him as the picture of true heroism.

HONORING MR. JAMES TOBIN

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James J. Tobin—a man who dedicated almost 40 years of his life to the automotive industry before retiring at the end of last year.

In the close-knit community of auto manufacturing, Mr. Tobin was a model of integrity, leadership, and hard work. As an executive with Magna International, the world's largest supplier for vehicles and automobiles, he was integral to strategic planning for an ever-changing landscape.

That knack for adapting—the ability to innovate as an industry leader while having the flexibility of someone helming a start-up—was instrumental when the first wave of COVID–19 hit our state last March.

Working closely with the State of Michigan, Oakland County, and my office, Mr. Tobin helped retool Magna's global supply chains to secure PPE for our frontline workers. His expertise with logistics and operations helped overcome challenges by bridging the gap between Asian and North American markets.

Whether it was supporting domestic production of gowns, face shields and ventilators, or coordinating meals to local health care workers, Mr. Tobin stepped up when folks needed it most.

The open dialogue and communication between his team and ours brought essential supplies and equipment to the front lines of the pandemic.

I am ever-grateful to have had him as a partner in our efforts. There is no doubt in my mind that lives in Michigan were saved because of Mr. Tobin and the folks at Magna.

Now, as he enjoys his well-earned retirement, I am wishing him all the best. He deserves the R&R but, knowing him, I'm certain he'll continue to give back—as a loving husband and father of three and as a dedicated role model in the community.

It's my privilege to recognize him on the floor of the People's House so his achievements and contributions can forever live on.

HONORING FORMER AMBASSADOR AHMET SHALA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the first Minister of Finance for the Republic of Kosovo and former Kosovo Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Ahmet Shala, on earning his Doctor of Philosophy in Strategic Leadership from James Madison University.

Mr. Shala was one of the first entrepreneurs to establish his own business in Kosovo, where he founded The Cambridge School, which is considered one of the leading institutions for English Language Teaching in Kosovo.

Mr. Shala began his career in public service when he was named the Deputy Managing Director at the Kosovo Trust Agency, where he was responsible for directing and managing the privatization of Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises. He later became the co-head of the Department of Trade and Industry, where he developed strategies and procedures for commercialization, again helping to transform Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises into private-sector development.

After being named the first Minister of Economy and Finance for the Republic of Kosovo in 2008, Mr. Shala laid the building blocks of the country's current economic system and successfully coordinated Kosovo's membership to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in 2009. Mr. Shala ran the Ministry of Finance until 2012, when he was appointed Kosovo's Ambassador to Japan.

After serving as Ambassador, Mr. Shala continued his service to the international community as a lecturer and professor in European and American educational institutions such as the London School of Economics, James Madison University and Harvard University.

Since losing family and friends to the horrific war crimes committed during the Kosovo War, he has been an avid human rights advocate and works to provide a voice for those facing oppression by expanding access to doctoral and master's program opportunities. At James Madison University, Mr. Shala has worked to ease tensions in the Balkan region by improving the quality of education in Kosovo and by partnering Kosovar students with high-impact graduate programs in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Former Ambassador Shala for his academic accomplishments along with his distinguished service to Kosovo, the United States and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF IRENE B. WEST

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of beloved Sacramentan Irene B. West, Retired Principal of the Elk Grove Unified School District, City of Elk Grove, County of Sacramento, California. Mrs. West entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the age of 88. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. West.

Mrs. West was a beloved California educator, community leader, activist, and devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a longtime and very active member of one of California's historic religious institutions, Shiloh Baptist Church. Mrs. West was a supporter of, mentor and friend to many. The citizens of the Sacramento area benefitted